

Timothy M. Herbst
First Selectman



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TOWN OF TRUMBULL CONNECTICUT

September 2, 2011

Ms. Linda Roberts, Executive Director
Connecticut Siting Council
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

RE: Docket No. 421

Dear Ms. Roberts:

Per your request, I am writing to provide input on behalf of the Town of Trumbull regarding Docket No. 421, T-Mobile Northeast LLC's application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance and operation of a telecommunications facility located at 158 Edison Road, Trumbull, CT (the "Tower").

First, I think it would be helpful for me to provide you with some background information about Trumbull's involvement with the proposed Tower. During the administration of my predecessor, former First Selectman Raymond G. Baldwin, Jr., upon the recommendation of the Trumbull Police Chief and Emergency Management Team, the Town identified the need to replace the existing communications tower at the Police Station. Trumbull negotiated a lease with T-Mobile to re-construct the Tower in order to provide the necessary communications coverage to achieve Trumbull's current and future needs for emergency communications. On October 5, 2009, the Trumbull Town Council, by a vote of 14-0-1, adopted Resolution TC22-225 which resolved that former First Selectman Baldwin was authorized to enter into the T-Mobile Lease. On October 30, 2009, former First Selectman Baldwin executed the T-Mobile Lease on behalf of the Town of Trumbull.

Sometime after the Town Council adopted Resolution TC22-225 and the T-Mobile lease was executed by former First Selectman Baldwin, concerned citizens formed Citizen's Against Trumbull Tower ("CATT"). Shortly after I took office in early 2010, members of CATT began to contact me to voice concern regarding the proposed Tower.

Pursuant to C.G.S. § 16-50(e), T-Mobile conducted its consultation with the Town for a period of time which exceeded eighteen (18) months, during which time T-Mobile: explained the need for the Tower; showed the Tower at its initial configuration; obtained a favorable opinion

from the State Historic Office; retained an independent radio frequency ("RF") consultant who performed a study which concluded that the Tower would produce RF emissions well below any local, state or federal exposure standards; vetted the surrounding area for alternative sites; and conducted multiple meetings with CATT and Town officials.

It is my opinion that Trumbull has a vested interest in preserving the residential nature of the neighborhood immediately surrounding the Trumbull Police Station which is located at 158 Edison Road in Trumbull ("Police Station"). For example, the most consistent concern that I have heard from residents has been about the potential visual impact of the Tower on neighboring properties. At the same time, the Town of Trumbull cannot interfere with T-Mobile's rights under its lease with Trumbull to construct and operate telecommunications equipment at the Tower. Therefore, earlier the year Town officials in my administration met numerous times with representatives from CATT and T-Mobile in order to identify design changes that T-Mobile was willing to make in order to lessen the potential visual impact of the Tower on neighboring properties. As a result of these efforts, T-Mobile has agreed to make the following design changes to the Tower:

- 1) T-Mobile will utilize flush mounting for its antennas, as opposed to T-arm mounting;
- 2) T-Mobile will include privacy slats in the fencing to shield the Facility compound;
- 3) T-Mobile's equipment will be surrounded by an eight (8) foot fence;
- 4) T-Mobile's cables will be installed inside the monopole;
- 5) T-Mobile agrees to only use lighting for the Facility when a technician performs maintenance on the Facility, which would normally occur during the day;
- 6) T-Mobile will certify to construct the Facility to comply with all applicable state and local codes/regulations;
- 7) T-Mobile will certify that its equipment will comply with all applicable state and local noise standards;
- 8) The Town will utilize three (3) four foot standoff T-boom antenna mounts instead of the walk-around antenna platform;
- 9) The Town will use fiberglass, slim line whip antennas, as opposed to dipoles;
- 10) The Town will paint its antennas sky blue to blend with the sky background;
- 11) The Town will reduce the height of many of the whip antennas on the regional platform; and
- 12) The overall height of the Facility will be reduced from 173'4" to 171'6" as a result of the Town agreeing to replace the walk-around antenna platform.

It is my understanding that CATT feels that the above described design do not alleviate all of its concerns about the proposed Tower. It feels the Siting Counsel should require additional design changes, including a reduction of the overall height of the Tower. I would support

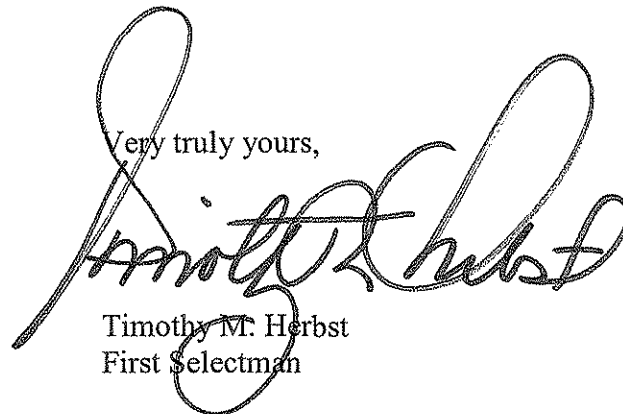
reasonable design changes to the Tower so long as said changes do not unreasonably impair T-Mobile's ability to achieve its coverage requirements and/or Trumbull's ability to achieve the desired coverage requirements for its emergency service providers.

If the Siting Council can determine in the discovery phase of its evidentiary hearings that the height of the tower can be reduced without compromising the ability of our emergency service personnel to properly communicate, then I wholeheartedly support this reduction in height. The Town of Trumbull desperately needs to enhance its emergency services communications. As First Selectman of the Town of Trumbull, I have a moral and statutory obligation to consider the public safety and welfare of all residents. Irrespective of the outcome of this application, the Police will require an upgraded communications tower at their current location. If we have learned anything from the recent hurricane, our emergency responders must be able to communicate with each other in a clear and concise manner.

CATT has also raised concerns about the potential visual impact of the Tower if any additional equipment is added in the future by an additional telecommunications company. In order to minimize any visual impact to the surrounding neighborhood from any additional equipment that could be potentially added in the future at the ground level of the Police Station or on the Tower by an additional telecommunications company, I would support reasonable conditions curtailing future telecommunications companies if the Connecticut Siting Council concurs that these modifications are within the statutory framework promulgated in C.G.S. § 16-50aa. I ask the Connecticut Siting Council to please consider the recommendations it will hear during the course of the public hearings concerning alternatives to mitigate and improve the visual impact of this tower on adjacent homeowners. Many of the design alternatives that have proposed thus far are worthy of your consideration and I support anything the Council can do to improve the visual appearance of this tower.

I hope that the above comments are helpful to the Siting Council's consideration of the subject application. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I could provide you with any further insight or information.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Timothy M. Herbst", is written over the typed name and title. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Timothy M. Herbst
First Selectman